

Pros slug out state win

By JUSTIN DAVIS
Blue Mountain Eagle

COQUILLE — The Prospector baseball season continues.

The Pros made the long trip to Coquille for a first-round matchup with the Red Devils at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, May 23. They left town with a 6-2 victory to extend their season for at least another week.

The Grant Union/Prairie City squad put up three runs in the first inning and another three in the top of the seventh to take a commanding 6-0 lead headed into the bottom of the final frame. The Red Devils would try to mount a late comeback in the bottom of the seventh, however, scoring a pair of runs before the Pros ended the rally attempt to secure the 6-2 win.

Parker Neault pitched the entire game for Grant Union.

Neault gave up five hits while surrendering no earned runs and striking out 10 batters. Freshman Ryland Beil had a breakout game offensively for the Pros. Beil finished 2-3 at the plate with three RBIs. Beil also drew a walk. Kobe Fell finished 4-2 at bat with a pair of runs scored and an RBI. Trever Gabbard finished with the best batting average of the day for the Pros, going 3-4 at the plate. The Pros logged 14 hits in the game and struck out only twice.

After a slow start and hovering at or near .500 for most of the season, the Prospectors appear to be playing their best baseball at the right time. The Pros have won eight of their last nine games and have pushed their season-long winning streak to five games. The Pros have outscored their opponents 87-9 during the five-game win streak.

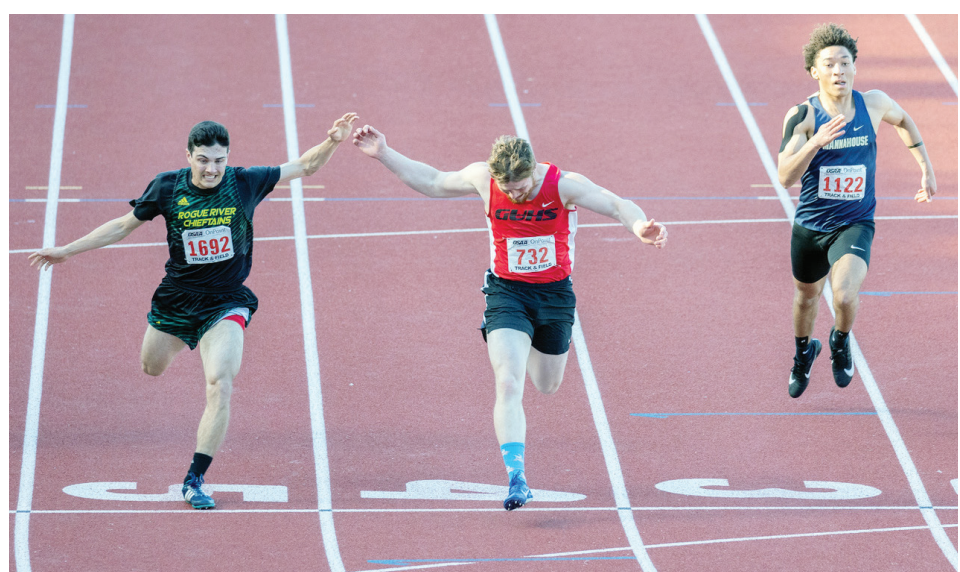
Grant Union baseball coach

RC Huerta says he feels “really good” following the state road win. “We limited our mistakes, and we played well,” he said. “I’m proud of the boys and our coaching staff.”

The tournament continues and that leaves little time to celebrate. Up next for the Pros is a date with second-ranked Kennedy on Wednesday, May 25, in Mount Angel.

Coach Huerta says the boys “understand what lies ahead” in Kennedy. “They’re a powerhouse,” Huerta said.

Despite that, Huerta has his team streaking and full of confidence. “They’re confident but not cocky,” Huerta adds. Huerta’s motto of “every game is a championship game” has gotten his team to the second round of the state playoffs and may take them further into the tournament than anybody thought possible a month ago.



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian

Grant Union's Justin Hodge wins the 2A 100-meter dash at the OSAA State Track and Field Championships on Friday, May 20, 2022, at Hayward Field in Eugene.

Hodge runs to state title

By JUSTIN DAVIS
Blue Mountain Eagle

EUGENE — Grant Union senior Justin Hodge is a state champion once again.

Hodge captured the 2A 100 meter state championship at the University of Oregon's Hayward Field in Eugene on Friday, May 20, with a time of 11.39. The 100 meter championship is Hodge's second of the year following his 152 pound state title in wrestling.

Hodge and 4x100 relay teammates Luke Jackson, Cashton Wheeler and Mason Morris came up just short of adding another state championship to Grant Union's tally, finishing third in the event at the state meet.

Jackson notched a pair of strong individual finishes at the meet, finishing fifth in the 200 meter dash and 400 meter race. The Grant Union boys tied for seventh place with 29 points but were only two points shy of a trophy: Sheridan, Weston-McEwen and Heppner finished in a tie for third place with 31 points.

Prairie City's Eli Wright just missed out on a state championship of his own in Eugene. Wright placed third in the javelin at the 1A level and second in the high jump. Wright's height in the high jump was 6 feet, 5 inches. The state champion from Glendale won the title with a height of 6 feet, 6 inches.

The Grant Union girls didn't register a score at the meet but did gain valuable experience for next year's campaign. Freshman Morgan Randleas was the highest finisher of the group, placing ninth in the long jump.

Junior Janie Koopman was the lone Prairie City girl at the state meet. Koopman finished 10th in the long jump and missed the final heat of the 400 meter race by half a second.

When asked what his second state championship meant to him, Hodge said it means a lot.

“I put a lot of work into it,” he said. “I've got to thank all the teammates that pushed me to be a state champ. You can't just walk on and be a state champ. Overall, I really enjoyed it. I'm glad I get to be a state champ for Grant Union.”

Hodge competed in the 100 meter dash all four years of high school and looks at his state title win as the culmination of all the work he's put into the event over the past four years.

Hodge said he plans on playing football at the College of the Siskiyous in Weed, California, after graduating high school. The message Hodge wants people to take away from his story is that if you work hard enough, “you'll get it.” He also wanted to thank his teammates across all sports, adding, “They all pushed me to get better.”

Bend-area golf course getting a second life

By MARK MORICAL
The Bulletin

BEND — One of the most popular public golf courses in Central Oregon could easily now be a housing development. But homeowners surrounding River's Edge Golf Course in Bend were determined to not let that happen.

Now that they still have their course, they want to make it great again.

“I think people are pretty excited about the new ownership,” said Jeff Kramer, president of the corporation of homeowners associations that now owns the course. “We're doing a lot of things for the course, and taking care of it in the way that it hasn't quite been taken care of the last several years. People are excited to see some of the changes.”

Kramer said they hired a new superintendent and are focused on greening up the course, improving the putting greens and redoing the tee boxes and bunkers.

“We're doing various things,

just to make it a more fun and enjoyable place to play for a range of golfers,” Kramer said.

About a year ago the homeowners were told that the fairways around their homes would be plowed up and turned into a Pahlisch Homes housing development with 400 homes. But last fall a settlement was reached with the former River's Edge owner to abandon the development plans and preserve the golf course.

Business owner Wayne Purcell sold the course to the group of homeowners associations that surrounds the 141-acre golf course for \$500,000, according to an email sent to homeowners. The settlement preserves River's Edge as a “playable 18-hole, par-72 golf course in perpetuity.”

Kramer, a retired lawyer who lives near the golf course, was the lead plaintiff in the lawsuit. He purchased his home in November 2019 and moved into the house in April 2020, one year before the announced sale of the golf course.

The lawsuit arose because

residents said they bought their homes based on advertising and other promises they were buying into a golf course community.

“We had broad community support from all the homeowners, financial support and ultimately the voting to approve the settlement that we were able to negotiate,” Kramer said. “We couldn't have done this without that broad community support. And we had strong facts and we had an excellent lawyer.”

As land becomes increasingly valuable and housing increasingly scarce in Central Oregon, other golf courses in the area may soon face the same dilemma as River's Edge.

“Every course is different, but as land becomes more valuable, and as the pressures to build homes and accommodate newcomers to the community grows, then it's going to be tempting for people who own golf courses to try to do what we avoided here,” Kramer said. “Yeah, I think we'll see this being more of a threat to other golf courses.”

Razzle Dazzle golf tournament sees record turnout

By STEVEN MITCHELL
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — The Jackson Razzle Dazzle Ladies Golf Tournament returned to the John Day Golf Club on Saturday and Sunday, May 21 and 22.

Longtime Grant County residents Greg and Melody Jackson sponsor the tournament.

Thirty-eight players competed in the event this year, a record for the Grant County tradition, lead organizer Melissa Finlayson told the Eagle.

The format for the tourney is 18 hole individual stroke play on Saturday. On Sunday, the format is a nine-hole scramble, where the golfers are paired depending on their scores from Saturday.

Lacy Avera took first



Kathleen Lee/Contributed Photo

A record number of golfers turned out at the John Day Golf Club this weekend for the Jackson's Razzle Dazzle Ladies Golf Tournament on May 21-22.

gross and Sarah Shinkle took second in the first flight. After that, the first net went to Teresa Lindgren, while the second went to Deb Oatman.

Celia Tacy won the first gross on the second flight

and Kelly Nichols took second. Meanwhile, Linda Taylor took the first net while Mandi Dowell and Stacey Radinovich tied for the second net.

Karie Grasty took the

first gross on the third flight, Linda McClellan took second, and Maxine Day and Shanon Tacy took the first and second net, respectively.

The first gross-winning team on Sunday was the

team of Sarah Shinkle, Mary Kerns, Maxine Day and Stacey Radinovich. The first net-winning team was the team of Lacy Avera, Jeanette Radinovich, Debbie Rancy and Melody Miller.

Finlayson said she wanted

to thank everyone who helped make the tournament a success this year.

“So many wonderful folks,” Finlayson said, “came together to make this year one for the record books.”

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“The United State flag does not fly because the wind moves past it... The United States flag flies from the last breath of each military member who has died protecting it”

This Memorial Day honor those who has served and protected this great country.

Virginia L. McMillan, DDS, PC

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